

STAT

USA TODAY
15 July 1983

7A

STAT

U.S. target of 'KGB forgeries'

By Juan J. Walte
USA TODAY

Last August, according to the Italian leftist weekly *War and Peace*, the U.S. Embassy in Rome told the State Department it was launching a "promising" propaganda campaign to draw attention to Bulgarian involvement in Pope John Paul II's assassination attempt.

In December, so the magazine reported, the embassy boasted to the State Depart-

ment "our operation ... has been a resounding success."

The cables were all in keeping with what the State Department claims has been a KGB campaign of forgery and disinformation initiated in Cold War days after World War II.

State Department spokesman John Hughes said Thursday the messages quoted in *War and Peace* were the handiwork of the KGB, and "are clearly intended to discredit the United States."

Such activities, said a State Department official, "can be very dangerous" in sensitive foreign policy areas.

U.S. officials have become increasingly aware of Soviet forgeries, said one source, "but it's difficult to say whether they have decreased or increased."

Hughes said the forged cables from the Rome embassy "fit into the pattern of other KGB-faked U.S. government documents that have come to attention in recent months."